

What is claimed is:

1. A method of forming a coating on a tampon applicator, the method comprising contacting said tampon applicator with a copolymer comprising a water soluble base polymer having graft polymerized thereto in a non-terminal position an organic moiety that includes a group that reacts with water to form a silanol group; and curing the copolymer to form a coating comprising the crosslinked copolymer on the article.
2. The method according to claim 1, where the group that reacts with water to form a silanol group is a trialkoxy silane functional group.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said contacting comprises applying a film containing un-crosslinked copolymer to the tampon applicator.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said applying is carried out under substantially water-free conditions.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the film substantially covers the exterior surface of the tampon applicator.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the curing step comprises contacting the film with water.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the contacting step comprises forming a solution of the copolymer in a solvent and placing a film of solution on the tampon applicator.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the solvent is water, an organic solvent, or a mixture thereof.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the solvent is water.
10. The method according to claim 7, wherein placing a film of solution on the tampon applicator comprises dipping, spraying, printing, painting, or immersing the tampon applicator with or in the solution.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein curing the copolymer to form a coating of the cross-linked copolymer comprises removing solvent from the copolymer.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein removing solvent from the copolymer comprises evaporating the solvent.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the evaporation comprises drying.
14. A coating on a tampon applicator, the coating comprising a crosslinked hydrogel that includes a copolymer comprising water soluble base polymers having graft polymerized thereto organic moieties that react with water to form a silanol group, the copolymer being crosslinked through the silanol groups of the organic moieties to form a coating that is absorbent, lubricious and substantially non-water soluble.
15. The coating according to claim 14, wherein the copolymer comprises the organic moieties in an amount that is within a range of about 0.5 to about 10 percent by weight of the water soluble base polymer.
16. The coating according to claim 15, wherein the coating is transparent.
17. The coating according to claim 16, wherein the coating is resistant to fogging.
18. The coating according to claim 14, wherein the coating is anti- thrombogenic.
19. The coating according to claim 15, wherein the coating comprises, in addition, a releasable component.
20. The coating according to claim 19, wherein the releasable component is selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents, bioactive agents, antibiotics, bactericides, fungicides, drugs, growth factors, peptides, proteins, enzymes, emollients, antiseptics, anti-oxidants, wetting agents, and mixtures thereof.